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## AMENDMENT

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

Please replace all previous versions of the claims with the following claim set:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented)     A speech recognition method, comprising:

defining a numeric language, the numeric language including a subset of a vocabulary, the subset of the vocabulary including words that identify digits in number strings and words that enable the interpretation and understanding of number strings;

defining first acoustical models for the numeric language at a first quality level;

defining second acoustical models for other words in the vocabulary at a second quality level; and

storing the first and second acoustical models in an acoustic model database that is accessible by a speech recognition processor.

14. (Previously Presented)     The method of claim 13, wherein the numeric language includes digits, natural numbers, alphabets, re-starts, and city/country name classes.

15. (Previously Presented)     The method of claim 13, wherein the acoustical models are hidden Markov models.

16. (Previously Presented)     The method of claim 13, further comprising defining a set of filler models that characterizes out-of-vocabulary features.

17. (Previously Presented)     A speech recognition method, comprising:

receiving a speech signal;

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performing a speech recognition process on the received speech signal to produce

speech recognition results, the speech recognition process being based on a set of acoustical

models that has been defined for a numeric language, wherein the numeric language includes

a subset of a vocabulary, the subset of the vocabulary including words that identify digits in

number strings and words that enable the interpretation and understanding of number strings;

and

generating a sequence of digits using said speech recognition results, said generating

being based on a set of rules.

18. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 17, wherein said performing is

implemented by a speech recognition processor.

19. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 17, wherein said performing is further

based on a second set of acoustical models that has been defined for other words in the

vocabulary.

20. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 19, wherein said second set of acoustical

models is defined at a quality level different than the set of acoustical models for the numeric

language.

21. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 17, wherein the numeric language

includes digits, natural numbers, alphabets, re-starts, and city/country name classes.

22. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 17, wherein the acoustical models are

hidden Markov models.

23. (Previously Amended)    The method of claim 17, wherein said generating is

implemented by a numeric understanding processor.

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24. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 17, wherein the set of rules includes one of a naturals rule and alphabets rule.

25. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 17, wherein the set of rules includes a restarts rule.

26. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 17, wherein the set of rules includes a city/country rule.

27. (Previously Presented)    The method of claim 17, wherein the set of rules includes a numeric phrases rule that realigns digits.

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

        a speech recognition processor that receives unconstrained input speech and outputs a string of words, the speech recognition processor being based on a numeric language that represents a subset of a vocabulary, the subset including a set of words identified as being relevant for interpreting and understanding number strings;

        a numeric understanding processor containing classes of rules for converting the string of words into a sequence of digits; and The system of claim 28, further comprising:

        an acoustic model database utilized by the speech recognition processor.

30. (Previously Presented)    The system of claim 29, wherein the acoustic model comprises:

        a first set of hidden Markov models that characterize acoustic features of words in the numeric language; and

        a second set of hidden Markov models that characterize acoustic features of words in the remainder of the vocabulary.

31. (Previously Presented)    The system of claim 30, further comprising:

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a set of filler models that characterizes out-of-vocabulary features.

32. (currently amended)  The system of claim 29 28, further comprising:

an utterance verification processor that identifies out-of-vocabulary utterances and utterances

that are poorly recognized.

33. (currently amended)      The system of claim 29 28, further comprising:

        a validation database that stores a set of valid numbers; and

        a string validation processor that outputs validity information based on a comparison

of a sequence of digits output by the numeric understanding processor with valid numbers in

the validation database.

34. (Previously Presented)     The system of claim 33, further comprising:

a dialogue manager processor that initiates an action based on the validity information.

35. (currently amended)      The system of claim 29 28, further comprising:

a language model database that stores data describing the structure and sequence of words

and phrases.

36. (currently amended)      The system of claim 29 28, wherein said numeric language

includes digits, natural numbers, alphabets, re-starts, and city/country name phrase classes.

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